

Fought on the 17th of June, 1775, &c.

[Price One Shilling and Six-Pence.]



AD IMPERIAL AND AUTHENTIC

MARKATIVE

OF THE

Entered at Stationers Hall.

BATTLE

Fought on the 1st of June, 1759.



[Price One Shilling and Six Pence.]

AN
Impartial *and* Authentic
NARRATIVE
OF THE
BATTLE

Fought on the 17th of June, 1775,

BETWEEN

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Troops

AND THE

AMERICAN Provincial Army,

ON

Bunker's Hill, near Charles Town, in New-England.

WITH

A True and Faithful Account of the OFFICERS
who were killed and wounded in that memorable
Battle.

To which are added,

Some particular REMARKS and ANECDOTES which
have not yet transpired.

The whole being collected and written on the Spot.

By JOHN CLARKE, *K*
FIRST LIEUTENANT OF MARINES.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR;

And Sold by J. MILLAN, Whitehall; J. BEW, in
Pater-noster Row; and — SEWELL, in Cornhill.

MD CCLXXV.

AN
 IMPARTIAL AND AUTHENTIC
 NARRATIVE
 OF THE
 BATTLE

Fought on the 17th of June, 1775.

THE BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S TROOPS



By the Hon. the Earl of Sandwich, Lord of the Admiralty.

A True and Faithful Account of the OFFICERS
 who were killed and wounded in that memorable
 Battle.

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 MDCCLXXV.

(2)

AN AUTHENTIC and IMPARTIAL
NARRATIVE
OF THE
BATTLE

Fought on the 17th of June, 1775, &c.

ON Friday the Sixteenth of June, 1775, Lieutenant General Gage, Commander in chief of all his Majesty's Troops in America, and Governor of Boston, received information that the Provincial American Army were erecting a Battery on Bunker's hill contiguous to Charles-Town, with an intent to besiege and annoy the Town of Boston. This information was soon confirmed by their firing several cannon-balls into the town, to the infinite terror and danger of the inhabitants, most of whom then within the town were in general deemed
and

and esteemed the steady Friends of Government.

In consequence of this insult to his Majesty's Troops and Government, Lieutenant-General Gage thought it expedient to give orders for the Men of War, Transports, &c. and the Military, to make every preparation for an action.

On the subsequent day, Saturday the Seventeenth of June, in compliance with these orders, every necessary disposal, from the Fleet and Army, was made by ten in the morning, and such Troops as were ordered upon the expedition were embarked at Hancock's wharf, and effected their landing under the cover of the shipping by one.

Two Transports also with Troops, arrived from England the night before, were ordered to land in the morning on Charles-Town side, to proceed to the engagement.

Immediately

Immediately after landing, Major General Howe, Major Pitcairn, and other principal Officers, directly drew up the Troops to the best advantage for battle: whilst this disposal was effecting, Lieutenant-General Gage ordered the Artillery on the Boston side to bombard and set fire to Charles-Town, in order to cut off the resource or refuge it might afford the Provincials: these orders were executed with incredible dispatch, and the whole town, containing about three hundred houses and a large church, represented a general conflagration by half after two.

By this time the Troops were all drawn up in order of battle, when Major General Howe addressed the Officers and Soldiers in the following manner:

“ Gentlemen,

“ I am very happy in having the honour of commanding so fine a body of
 “ men: I do not in the least doubt, but
 “ that

“ that you will behave like Englishmen,
 “ and as becometh good soldiers,

“ If the enemy will not come from
 “ their intrenchments, we must drive
 “ them out, at all events, otherwise the
 “ town of Boston will be set on fire by
 “ them,

“ I shall not desire one of you to go a
 “ step farther than where I go myself at
 “ your head.

“ Remember, Gentlemen, we have
 “ no recourse to any resources, if we lose
 “ Boston, but to go on board our ships,
 “ which will be very disagreeable to us
 “ all.”

We then began to proceed to action,
 by marching with a quick step up the
 precipice that led to the intrenched
 Provincial Army, until within five hun-
 dred yards of them: a very brisk fire com-
 menced

menced on their side, and was returned on ours; still marching up to their intrenchments as fast as possible, from whence we dislodged them by four o'clock, the battle being fought and gained within one hour.

In the intrenchments were found five pieces of cannon, and five iron swivel-guns which they had taken out of the Diana schooner, which they burnt.

The fate of the battle was very severe on the fifty-second Regiment of Foot and the first Brigade of Marines, the officers and men behaving remarkably well, and gaining immortal honour, though with considerable loss, as will appear by the number of the officers killed and wounded.

A full half-hour after the Americans were dislodged from their intrenchments, and it was generally supposed that no enemy

enemy were at hand, Lieutenant Dutton, of the Thirty-eighth Regiment, being much afflicted with the gout, and severely fatigued with the engagement, sat down on the grass to change his stockings, and, while so doing, was alarmed by his servant telling him two men were approaching with firelocks, who were not of the King's Troops. The servant expressed an apprehension of their intention being hostile, which Mr. Dutton laughed at, and replied, he supposed they were coming to surrender and give up their arms: but his incredulity proved fatal to him; for they were no sooner within a convenient space, than they lodged the contents of their muskets in the bodies of the hard-fated Lieutenant and servant, notwithstanding that the King's Troops were within fifty yards of him when he lost his life, and some of the Light Infantry quite close to him; however, they were instantaneously sacrificed to his much-injured *manes*. Mrs. Dutton and her two children came home in the Cerberus.

The

The Americans being defeated, and the King's Troops in possession of the intrenchments, Major General Howe sent to Lieutenant General Gage for a reinforcement of Troops, who immediately sent him four Regiments of Foot and the second Battalion of Marines, a Company of the Artillery, and six pieces of cannon.

As soon as the reinforcement of Troops and Artillery arrived, they immediately began to fortify Bunker's hill; by which they acquired about one hundred and forty acres of fine land, with all the gardens and orchards belonging to Charles-Town. This acquisition is of the utmost consequence to Boston, as that town can now be supplied with plenty of vegetables and fruit.

It is impossible to give an exact account of the number which was killed of the Americans: above two hundred were killed on forcing the intrenchments,

as

as appeared on our burying so many :
above forty were made prisoners, and
carried to Boston jail, where they still
remain.

The next day also we found a piece of
ground, about twenty yards long and
twelve wide, which appeared to have
been fresh digged : on opening part of
it, about two feet deep a number of dead
bodies were discovered, buried in their
cloaths : these men must have been killed
by the shot and bombs from the shipping,
the day before, and during part of the
night ; but not opening all the piece of
ground, the exact number could not be
discovered.

*A List of Officers killed and wounded on
Saturday the 17th of June, 1775.*

4th REGT.	Capt.	Balfour	Wounded.
		West	W.
	Lieutenant	Barron	W.
		Brown	W.
5th	Major	Mitchel	W.
	Capt.	Downs	Killed.
		Jackson	W.
		Marfden	W.
	Lieutenant	Croker	W.
		McClintock	W.
	Ensign	Charlton	W.
		Palaguire	W.
10th	Capt.	Fitzgerald	W.
		Parsons	W.
	Lieutenant	Pettigrew	W.
		Hamilton	W.
		Kelly	W.
		Verner	W.
14th	Lieutenant	Bruere, a vo-	} K.
		lunteer	
	Ensign	Haskett	W.
	C	Lieutenant	

18th REGT.	<i>Lieut.</i> Richardson	W.
22d	<i>Lieut. Col.</i> Abercrombie	K.
23d	<i>Capt.</i> Blakeney	W.
	<i>Lieutenant</i> Cockran	W.
	Beckwith	W.
	Lenthall	W.
35th	<i>Capt.</i> Lyon	W.
	Drew	W.
	<i>Lieutenant</i> Bard	K.
	Massey	W.
	Campbel	W.
38th	<i>Major</i> Bruce	W.
	<i>Capt.</i> Boyd	W.
	Coker	W.
	<i>Lieutenant</i> Dutton	K.
	Christie	W.
	Houfe	W.
	Myers	W.
	<i>Quarter-Master</i> Mitchel	W.
	<i>Ensign</i> Serjeant	W.
43d	<i>Major</i> Spendlove	W.
	<i>Capt.</i> Mackenzie	K.
	<i>Lieutenant</i> Robertson	W.
	Dalrymple	W.
	47th	

47th REGT.	<i>Major</i>	Smelt	W.
	<i>Capt.</i>	England	W.
		Craigg	W.
		Allcock	W.
	<i>Lieutenant</i>	Gold	K.
		Hilliard	K.
		Hilier	K.
		England	W.
52d	<i>Major</i>	Williams	K.
	<i>Captains</i>	Addison	K.
		Davidson	K.
		Smith	K.
		Nelson	W.
	<i>Lieutenants</i>	Higgins	K.
		Crawford	W.
		Thompson	W.
	<i>Ensigns</i>	Chetwynd	W.
		Grame	W.
59th	<i>Lieutenant</i>	Haynes	W.
63d	<i>Capt.</i>	Horsford	W.
		Foillett	W.
	<i>Lieutenant</i>	Dalrymple	K.
65th	<i>Major</i>	Butler	W.
	<i>Capt.</i>	Hudson	K.
		Sinclair	W.
			<i>Lieuts.</i>

65th REGT. *Lieuts.* Pexton W.
Smith W.
Hales W.
67th *Capt.* Sherwin K.
Aid de Camp to Major Gen. Howe.

M A R I N E S.

Marines *Major* Pitcairn K.
Capt. Campbell K.
Ellis K.
Chudleigh W.
Logan W.
Averne W.
Capt. Lieut. and Adj. Johnson W.
First Lieutenants Finnie K.
Shea K.
Gardner K.
Brisbane W.
Ragg W.
Pitcairn W.
Second Lieutenant Dyer W.
Engineer Page W.
Artillery *Capt.* Limoine W.
Huddleston W.
Lieutenant

Artillery	Lieut. Shutworth	W.
	Campbell	W.

Field Officers	Killed	3.
	Wounded	4.

Captains	Killed	9.
	Wounded	25.

Subalterns	Killed	11.
	Wounded	40.

Total of Officers	92.
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Non-commissioned officers	}	Killed	200.
and private men		Wounded	749.

Total of Officers and Men	1041.
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*Regiments in the Field of Battle on the
17th of June, 1773.*

Fifth.

Thirty-eighth.

Forty-third.

Forty-seventh.

Fifty-second,

First

First Battalion of Marines.

Thirteen Companies of Grenadiers.

Thirteen Companies of Light Infantry,

Besides these Regiments, which are now at Boston, there are only two more in all America; the Seventh, or Royal English Fuzileers; and the Eighth.

As it is very uncommon, that such a great number of Officers should be killed and wounded more than in proportion to the number of Private men, the following discovery seems to account for it,

Before the intrenchments were forced, a man, whom the Americans called a Marksman, or Rifleman, was seen standing upon something near three feet higher than the rest of the Troops, as their hats were not visible: this man had no sooner discharged one musket, than another was handed to him, and continued firing in that manner for ten or twelve minutes; and
in

in that small space of time, by their handing to him fresh loaded muskets, it is supposed that he could not kill or wound less than twenty officers; for it was at them particularly that he directed his aim, as was afterwards confirmed by the prisoners; but he soon paid his tribute, for, upon being noticed, he was killed by the Grenadiers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Another remarkable circumstance of the heat of this action, is, that all the Grenadiers of the Fourth or King's own Regiment, were killed or wounded, except four: and of the Grenadiers also of the Twenty-third, or Royal Welsh Fusiliers, only three remained, who were not either killed or wounded. The number of men in each company, if complete, should be thirty-nine. This disproportion also is very great, as, from calculations of most pitched battles, the proportion of the number of killed and wounded is only every eighth man.

As

As soon as the news of the battle being over, reached Boston, those persons who style themselves Friends to Government, instantly sent out every sort of carriage they had, as coaches, chariots, single-horse chaises, and even hand-barrows, to the water-side, to assist in bringing to Boston, the wounded and killed officers and soldiers to their respective homes: likewise all the Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries of Boston, instantly attended the wounded Officers, and gave them every assistance in their power.

Then followed a melancholy scene of several carriages, with the dead and dying officers; in the first of which was Major Williams bleeding and dying, and three dead Captains of the Fifty-second Regiment; but he lived till the next morning.

The second contained four dead Officers, then another with wounded Officers; and this scene continued until Sunday morning,

morning, before all the wounded private men could be brought to Boston.

Those soldiers who fell in the field, were instantly buried there; and on Monday morning all the dead officers were decently buried in Boston, in a private manner, in the different churches and church-yards there. Lieutenant Colonel Abercrombie and Major Pitcairn were buried in the King's Chapel.

During the engagement, a Captain of Marines, who had been in several, remarked to Major Pitcairn, that of all the actions he had been in, this was the hottest; first, from the burning of the houses in Charles-town; next, the heat of the day; and thirdly, from the heat of the enemies fire. The Major answered him, that soldiers should enure themselves to all manner of hardships, not to regard either heat or cold: "For my part, at present, (says he) I have enough to do to mind my duty,

D

" which

“ which I shall do to the utmost of my
 “ power.” Soon after, they were both of
 them shot through the body, and died
 instantly.

A report having prevailed, that Doctor
 Warren was not killed, I think it neces-
 sary to contradict it, as I saw a soldier,
 after the Doctor was wounded and lying in
 the trenches, going to run him through
 the body with his bayonet; on which the
 Doctor desired he would not kill him, for
 he was much wounded, and could not
 live a great while longer; on which the
 soldier swore that he would, for that he
 had done more mischief than any one else,
 and immediately run him through the
 body.

The Doctor's dress was a light-coloured
 coat, with a white satin waistcoat laced
 with silver, and white breeches with
 silver loops; which I saw the soldier
 soon after strip off his body.

He

He was supposed to be the Commander of the American army that day; for General Putnam was about three miles distance, and formed an ambuscade with about three thousand men.

As it was imagined that the Americans would give great encouragement to the King's Troops to induce them to desert, by offering them lands to cultivate; it had its effect upon some, as upwards of one hundred of the Eighteenth Regiment, or Royal Irish, deserted, and are still with them: two or three of these indeed returned to the Regiment, as the Americans had not performed their agreement.

A soldier also of the Fourth Regiment came to his Captain, and told him, that an offer was made him of ten dollars and a new suit of clothes, on condition of his deserting; that, if he approved of it, he would take the money, go as a spy, and at a short, but convenient opportunity, would

would return again to the regiment, and inform him how he was treated. The Captain approved of the Soldier's plan, and consented. The Soldier staid about a week with them, but had his money and clothes taken from him, and put to hard labour, instead of other encouragement.

The Quarter-master Serjeant of the Thirty-eighth Regiment went off with about forty pounds of his Captain's money, and has been appointed a Lieutenant Colonel in their service, and is one of the most active men which they have.

A Corporal from the Marines on board the Lively Man of War, also deserted, and has been appointed Captain and Adjutant.

Desertion however has now taken its leave; for since the Americans came to a resolution, on the nineteenth of April last, to abridge the King's Troops having fresh provisions from the country, the Soldiers

are

are so exasperated against them, that not one attempts to desert; nor does either Soldier or Sailor think of it now.

A remarkable instance of benevolence and humanity was shewn by General Gage's Lady, the day after the action, which ought never to be forgotten. She sent all her fowls, fish, and what little fresh meat she had in the house, to the wounded Officers, scarcely leaving a sufficiency for herself and the General. This is not all: her goodness and charity to the Soldiers' Wives and Children, have gained her immortal honour, which she very justly merits. As a general benevolence for the Army is the very characteristic of the English Ladies, I hope they will follow General Gage's Lady's most amiable example. Within this month are expected home some hundreds of poor unfortunate Soldiers and their Families from Boston, some with one leg, others with one arm, some without either

leg

leg or arm: when you see any of these men, consider what they have suffered; if it were possible, it would draw tears from iron and steel.

On my arrival in London, I heard almost every body declare their surprise, that Earl Percy's name should not be mentioned by Lieutenant General Gage. With what propriety could he introduce the name of any officer, however distinguished his rank might be, if he was not in the action? I shall therefore explain the reason, why, although his Regiment was in the action, he could not with propriety charge at the head of it.

On the arrival, at Boston, of the three Generals lately sent out in the Cerberus Man of War,

Major General Howe,

Major General Clinton,

Major General Burgoyne,

the army, according to the military establishment, was divided into three
Brigades

Brigades, under each of their respective commanders. Every Brigade has a Brigadier General, but whose rank only exists while upon service:

Under Major Gen. Howe was Col. Pigot

Under — — Clinton Col. Earl Percy

Under — — Burgoyne Col. Jones.

Brigadier General Earl Percy deserves the greatest encomiums that is possible for pen to write in his praise: his unbounded generosity and general benevolence exceed all I ever saw. When one considers the noble race of ancestors from whence he is descended, I cannot be at a loss to account for his noble and princely spirit; which causes him to be esteemed by his officers, and adored by his men, as he makes it his perpetual study to do all the good possible to every body.

*A List of the Men of War now at Boston,
where stationed, and the Number of Guns
on board each Ship.*

The Preston, of 50 guns, Admiral Graves, Captain Robinson, near Boston.

The Somerset, of 70 guns, Captain Le Cras, between Boston and Charles-Town.

The Lively, of 20 guns, Captain Bishop, between the Islands, at the entrance of the Harbour.

The Glasgow, of 20 guns, Captain Howe, at the upper end of the river between Boston and Charles-town.

The Falcon Sloop, of 16 guns, Captain Linzee, at the mouth of Cape Cod Bay.

The Boyne, of 70 guns, Captain Hartwell, near the castle, about two leagues from Boston.

With several schooners and armed ships, to examine all ships going in and out.

These

These ships, from the natural situation of Boston, are a very great defence to the town; nor can it be annoyed by the Americans, without a superior naval force: they however, had the hardiness, on Sunday the 28th of May, whilst the Chaplain on board the Somerset was at prayers, to come down to the shore from William's Island, and fired several musket-shots, which hit the ship, but did no mischief: the compliment was returned by a discharge of grape-shot, but, they believe, without any effect, as none were seen to drop; and they immediately made a precipitate retreat, but in sight of us set William's house on fire.

A most horrid plot also was discovered of their intending to massacre all the Officers in Boston, in one night. The Officers being quartered in private lodgings, an alarm was to be given in the night, and as each Officer was coming out of the

E

street-

street-door, he was to be assassinated; but happily the affair was discovered before it was put in execution. A boy, seen swimming across the river between Boston and Charles-town, gave a suspicion he was carrying some intelligence: he was accordingly taken up and examined; when, after some time, a letter was found in his stocking-foot, which led to the discovery.

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(82)

As every body is anxious for the fate of the Town of Boston, on account of the King's Troops being in it, and their opinions being very various in regard to the possibility of its holding out against the American Army, an account of its situation, strength, &c. may not be improper, as from this account the Public may form a better judgement of it.

BOSTON is the capital of New-England, lies in long. $71^{\circ} 5'$ W. lat. $42^{\circ} 24'$ N. and although London is in lat. $51^{\circ} 30'$ N. yet the winters are much severer there than at London, and the harbour is generally frozen up: the summers also are hotter.

It is situated on a peninsula, at the bottom of a fine bay, and is joined to the continent by a neck of land, which forms a road near one mile in length, which
has

has lately been fortified in a very strong manner with redoubts, chevaux de frize, and a large number of cannon. This is the only avenue to the town on the land side.

The town contains between four and five thousand houses, and about twenty thousand inhabitants; but near two thirds of these are supposed to have quitted it, and gone to other parts of America, or joined their army; and most of those who are left, profess themselves steady friends to Government.

The laws relating to the poor are upon such a plan, that there are no beggars in any part of America.

The account of the Scotch soldier being killed by his brother at Charles-town, as mentioned in the Gazetteer of the 7th of August, I rather think, has been manufactured here by some news-collector, as

I never heard the least account of it whilst at Boston.

About the harbour the town forms the shape of a crescent, and the country rising gradually behind it, affords a very agreeable prospect. It is surrounded by a number of islands; on one of which, at about a league distance, is built a castle, to command the entrance of the harbour, and is very well fortified.

The entrance into the harbour is not wide enough for above three sail at a time, but is capable of containing above five hundred sail.

A pier has been built at the bottom of the bay, near seven hundred yards long, on the north side of which is built a row of warehouses for the use of the merchants; and the water is so very deep, that they can conveniently unload without the help of boats.

The

The streets are very commodious and large, particularly that which extends from the Town-house to the Pier.

Across Charles river, directly opposite Boston, Charles-town is situated on a peninsula, which contained about three hundred houses, a church, and some public buildings.

A ferry is established across the river, which is about two hundred yards wide, for the ready communication between the two towns.

The only possible method of annoying Boston was from this quarter; but since Lieutenant General Gage has been in possession of it, he has been fortifying it very strongly towards the peninsula; and whilst he keeps possession of it, Boston cannot be set on fire, except by those on the inside of it.

The

The American army have also begun to fortify a hill, at a small distance, called Prospect hill: at present they have not been uniformly clothed, but both Officers and foldiers wore their own clothes; nor did I see any colours to their regiments on the day of action: their firelocks are very long, some near seven feet; and they had fifes and drums. Their men are in general very robust, and larger than the English.

In this situation, by the latest accounts, are the two Armies; but if any material occurrences happen, the Author, having settled a correspondence at Boston, will give the Public a further account of them, and would take it as a very particular obligation to be informed of any, by a line directed for him at Mr. Millan's, Book-seller, at Whitehall.

As thirty-six years of the Author's life have been spent in the service of his late and present Majesty, he hopes that the
indulgent

indulgent Public, and the curious Critic, will therefore look upon him as a Soldier, not as a Writer, and excuse any incorrectness in his language, or defect of style; as what he only has aimed at has been to give a plain narrative of real facts: if he gives satisfaction in that, he will think himself completely happy.

Officers dead of their Wounds.

Captain Averno, of the Marines;

Captain Lyon, of the 35th Regiment;

Lieutenant Thompson, of the 52d.

T H E E N D